

Living in the Light of Peace

- **Day One – Read Isaiah 9:6; Luke 1:68-69,79.** The brutal hand of Rome enforced the “*Roman Peace*” (Pax Romana), but the people longed for a better peace in their lives. What kinds of peace do people (you) long for today?

Pray and ask God to help you find real peace. Ask for forgiveness from God if it’s needed. Do you need to ask for or give forgiveness to another person? Ask God for courage and help.

- **Day Two – Read Isaiah 26:3; Proverbs 3:5-6; Isaiah 30:15-18a.** What worries and concerns tend to rob you of peace most often? In what areas of your life is it most difficult to trust God?

Pray and ask God to help you trust him more. Confess your doubts and fears, and ask him to strengthen your faith.

- **Day Three – Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-18; Isaiah 58:9b-10a; Matthew 5:16; Galatians 6:9.** In what ways are you a part of seeking peace (reconciliation and justice) in our community and in our world? It’s easy to grow weary, but we must continue to bring the light!

Pray and ask God to help you see the opportunities and remain strong to seek peace and serve others.

Matthew 5:9 (NIV) ⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.

New Life Lessons
December 12th & 13th, 2015
Pastor Ron Salsbury

“The Light of Peace”

Follow the Star #2

Isaiah 9:6; 53:5; 26:3; Luke 1:68-69, 79

Isaiah 9:6 (NIV) ⁶ For to us **a child is born**, to us **a son is given**. And he will be called, ... **Prince of Peace**.

Zechariah 9:10b (NIV) ^{10 b} He will **proclaim peace** to the nations. His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.

Luke 1:68-69, 79 (NIV) ⁶⁸ "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people. ⁶⁹ He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David ⁷⁹ to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, **to guide our feet into the path of peace.**"

What Peace is Not

- ***The Absence of Conflict***
- ***Always Easily Achieved***
- ***Without the Need to Maintain It***
- ***Without the Need to Extend It***

Jesus, the Light of Peace, Brings:

1. Peace with God through

Atonement

Isaiah 53:5 (NIV) ⁵ He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; **the punishment that brought us peace** was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

1 John 2:1b-2 Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. **He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins**, and not only ours, but also for **the sins of the whole world**.

Romans 5:1 (NIV) Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have **peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ."

2. Peace with Others through

Grace

1 Peter 3:11b (NIV) ^{11b} **Seek peace and pursue it.**
Ephesians 4:32; Matthew 5:23-24; 18:15-18

Ephesians 2:13-14 Now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. For He **himself is our peace**, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations.

Matthew 10:34 Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.
Matthew 10:33, 35-39; Isaiah 49:24-25

3. Peace with Ourselves through ***Trust***

Isaiah 26:3 You will keep in **perfect peace** him whose mind is steadfast because, **he trusts you in.**"

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him and he will direct you paths.

Isaiah 30:15-18a This is what the Sovereign Lord, the Holy One of Israel o says, "In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength."

4. Peace in Our World through

Reconciliation and Justice

2 Corinthians 5:17-18 If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come. All this is from God, who **us to himself** through Christ and **gave us the ministry of reconciliation**.

Isaiah 58:9b-10a If you **do away with the yoke of oppression**, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, and if you spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness.

Matthew 5:16 (NIV) ¹⁶ **Let your light shine** before men, that they may **see your good deeds** and **praise your Father in heaven**.

Galatians 6:9 (NIV) ⁹ **Let us not become weary in doing good**, for at the proper time **we will reap a harvest if we do not give up**.

"Don't curse the darkness, light a candle!"